

Reducing Questions

Asking lots of questions can make a child feel pressured. A child is more likely to copy your words than answer your questions. Try to reduce the amount of questions that you ask, instead, try to make comments about what the child is interested in.

Expanding

Expanding language is done by adding words to what the child has already said. You can add action words, colours, size words, people etc. This helps the child build on what they already know.

Child: "Car!"
Adult: "Yes, a blue car!"

Early Language Strategies

Strategies to support your child's language and communicative development.

Commenting

"Commenting" is putting words to what is already occurring in the child's life. You can make comments about things as they happen, everyday activities, name toys or actions the child is doing.

Adult: "Oh big jump! Jump down!"

Repeating

Repeating your child can be a very helpful tool, as it shows your child that you are listening and acknowledging their communicative attempts.

Additionally, repeating their words in the context that they occur can reinforce the child's use of said words. You can repeat noises, words or gestures made by your child.

Giving Choices

Offering choices encourages independence and allows children to express themselves in ways in addition to speaking. For example, you could hold up two toys and ask "X or Y?". The child is then able to make their choice either verbally, gesturally or by looking.

